

Message Text

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ORIGIN SNM-05

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY LIMA
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY PANAMA

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E.O. 11652:NA

TAGS: SNAR

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS REGIONAL COOPERATION - ENFORCEMENT

REF: 77 STATE 301775

1. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES THOUGHTFUL SUGGESTIONS
RECEIVED IN ANSWER TO REFTEL.
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2. IN ORDER TO INCREASE CHANCES OF FRUITFUL COOPERATION,
WE HAVE DECIDED TO LIMIT THE INITIAL MEETING (OUTLINED
BELOW) TO THE FOUR ANDEAN COUNTRIES. OTHERS MAY BE
BROUGHT IN FOR SPECIFIC PROJECTS AT SOME FUTURE DATE.
TO AVOID POSSIBLE ALTITUDE PROBLEMS IN LA PAZ, WE WILL
ACCEPT PERU'S OFFER FOR SITE OF INITIAL MEETING. EMBASSY

LA PAZ SHOULD THANK COLONEL APARICIO AND EXPLAIN THE REASON FOR NOT TAKING UP HIS OFFER.

3. THE INITIAL MEETING AS WE FORESEE IT WILL BE HIGH-LEVEL, WITH PARTICIPANTS AT THE MINISTER OR SUB-MINISTER LEVEL, AND AIMED AT OBTAINING THE NECESSARY COMMITMENT FROM THE HOST GOVERNMENT TO REGIONAL ENFORCEMENT PROJECTS. WE DO NOT WISH THE US TO DOMINATE, SO THAT OUR PARTICIPATION WOULD BE LIMITED TO A FEW EQUALLY HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIALS FROM WASHINGTON, AND OUR AMBASSADOR TO PERU.

WE DO NOT PLAN TO BRING SAICS OR NARCOTICS COORDINATORS AND ADVISORS. EMBASSY LIMA SHOULD WORK OUT WITH THE GOP APPROPRIATE TIMING FOR MEETING (WE WOULD PREFER EARLY MAY) AND ISSUANCE OF INVITATIONS. A TWO-DAY SESSION SEEMS PROPER. WOULD IT BE APPROPRIATE FOR INVITATION TO BE ISSUED JOINTLY BY THE GOVERNMENTS OF PERU AND THE US? AN AGENDA SHOULD ALSO BE WORKED OUT WITH THE PERUVIANS -- SOME SUGGESTED TOPICS ARE NOTED BELOW IN PARA 7.

4. PIGGY-BACKED ON THE END OF THE HIGH-LEVEL MEETING WILL BE A PLANNING SESSION WITH THE HEADS OF THE APPROPRIATE LATIN AMERICAN ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES. AT THAT SESSION, THEY WOULD WORK OUT DETAILS OF THE FIRST JOINT EXERCISE AND BEGIN DISCUSSION OF THE FOLLOWING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ONE. AS OUR PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVE IN THIS EXERCISE IS TO FOSTER COOPERATION AMONG REGIONAL COUNTRIES THEMSELVES, WE WOULD LIMIT US PARTICIPATION TO ONE US REPRESENTATIVE PER COUNTRY, APPROPRIATE CUSTOMS REPRESENTATION, AND A PROGRAM OFFICER FROM S/NM, WITH EMBASSY/DEA LIMA PROVIDING ANY NECESSARY SUPPORT. ROLE OF S/NM REP WOULD BE TO MONITOR PLANS WHICH MAY BE DRAWN UP IN TERMS OF USG SUPPORT.

5. BY WAY OF PREPARATION FOR OPERATIONAL PLANNING SESSION (PARA 3), POSTS ARE REQUESTED TO WORK WITH HOST GOVERNMENTS TO HAVE THEM PREPARE SPECIFIC OPERATIONAL PROJECT PLANS WHICH THEY CAN TABLE AT THE MEETING. THE LIST CONTAINED IN PARA 5 OF STATE 301775 MAY BE USEFUL IN DISCUSSIONS WITH HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, BUT SHOULD NOT BE CONSTRUED AS RESTRICTIVE. NEW IDEAS FROM THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED WOULD BE EXTREMELY USEFUL, SINCE WE WISH TO ENCOURAGE AS MUCH INDEPENDENT HOST COUNTRY INITIATIVE AS POSSIBLE. WE WOULD, HOWEVER, LIKE TO REVIEW HOST COUNTRY PLANS BEFORE THE MEETING TO AVOID PLANNING WHICH ENCOMPASSES UNFEASIBLE US INPUTS. THE DEPARTMENT IS ASKING DEA AND CUSTOMS ALSO TO DRAW UP

POSSIBLE PROJECTS TO BE TABLED ALONG WITH THOSE OF THE LATIN AMERICANS. PLANNING DECISIONS AND PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION WILL BE LEFT AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE TO THE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES. US ROLE MUST BE KEPT TO THAT OF A CATALYST IF OUR AIMS ARE TO BE ACHIEVED.

6. IDEALLY, THE PROJECTS SHOULD MAKE USE OF HOST COUNTRY/INC-PROVIDED COMMODITIES ALREADY IN COUNTRY. WE DO NOT FORESEE MASSIVE INPUTS OF NEW MATERIEL (SUCH AS DURING OPERATION FUNNEL), THOUGH A LIMITED NUMBER OF SPECIFIC ESSENTIAL ITEMS COULD BE PROVIDED IF THERE IS

ENOUGH LEAD TIME. S/NM WOULD BE PREPARED TO FUND PER DIEM, POL, AND TRAVEL REQUIRED FOR HOST GOVERNMENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AGENTS TO TAKE PART IN THE OPERATIONS. (FYI: CONCEPT PAPER PREPARED HERE SET ASIDE DOLLARS 250,000 FOR EACH FY 1978 AND FY 1979. IN ADDITION TO SUPPORT FOR TRAVEL AND PARTICIPATION IN MEETINGS, FUNDING WAS PREDICATED ON HYPOTHESIS OF TRAVEL AND PER DIEM OF 25 AGENTS PER COUNTRY FOR TWO THIRTY-DAY PERIODS, COMMODITIES AT \$5,000 PER COUNTRY PER OPERATION -- INCLUDING POL AND MAINTENANCE OF EQUIPMENT.)

7. WITH REGARD TO THE HIGH-LEVEL MEETING, THE FOLLOWING ARE MERELY SUGGESTIONS ON POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS:

A) DRUG TRAFFICKING AND ABUSE PROBLEMS OF COUNTRIES REPRESENTED.

B) COORDINATION AND COOPERATION OF ENFORCEMENT AND PROSECUTIONS.

C) EXCHANGE OF NARCOTICS ATTACHES.

8. OTHER SUGGESTIONS FOR THE AGENDA SHOULD BE SENT TO BOTH LIMA AND THE DEPARTMENT. VANCE

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